1. A compound of the formula:

$$R_4O = \frac{\|5}{\|6\|_1^2} = \frac{1}{2}$$
 $R_1 = \frac{1}{2}$
 $R_2 = \frac{1}{2}$
 $R_3 = \frac{1}{2}$
 $R_4O = \frac{1}{2}$

wherein:

Z is CH or N;

R is H or acyl;

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₅ may be the same or different and represent H, alkyl or hydrocarbyl arylalkyl having up to 14 carbon atoms;

R₄ is H or alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms with the proviso

 R_4 is alkyl having 1–4 carbon atoms when Z is CH, R_5 is H and R_4O is attached to the carbon atom labelled 4:

a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or a $\,^{30}$ pharmaceutically acceptable complex thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is N and $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_4=R_5=H$.

3. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is CH, $R=R_1=R_2=35$ $R_3=R_5=H$, and R_4 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

4. A compound of claim 3 wherein R_4 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

5. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is N, $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_5=H$, and R_4 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

6. A compound of claim 5 wherein R₄ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

7. A compound of claim 1 having the formula:

$$Z_{5}$$
 Z_{5}
 Z_{5

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55

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wherein:

Z, R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ have the meanings ascribed thereto in claim 1;

a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable complex thereof.

8. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N and $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_4=R_5=H$.

9. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH, $R=R_1=R_2=$ $R_3=R_5=H$, and R_4 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

10. A compound of claim 9 wherein R_4 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

11. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N, $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_5=H$, and R_4 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

12. A compound of claim 11 wherein R₄ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

13. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH, $R=R_4=R_1=R_2=R_5=H$, and R_3 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

14. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH, $R=R_4=R_1=R_3=R_5=H$, and R_2 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

15. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH, $R=R_4=R_3=R_2=R_5=H$, and R_1 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

16. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N, $R=R_4=R_1=$ 25 $R_2=R_5=H$, and R_3 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

17. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N, $R=R_4=R_1=R_3=R_5=H$, and R_2 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

18. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N, $R=R_4=R_3=R_2=R_5=H$, and R_1 is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

19. An optically pure compound of claim 1 or 7.

20. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

21. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

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22. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

23. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the 20

24. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

25. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

26. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dosage form for treating a pathological condition in a human or non-human animal that is associated with an excess of a trivalent metal, ion or compound thereof comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

27. A method of preventing or treating a pathological condition in a human or non-human animal that is associated with an excess of a trivalent metal, ion or compound thereof comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or 7.